

Remarks:

Drawings. Applicant proposes to add Figure 9 (Paragraph 32) which is derived from the specification at amended Paragraph 39. Appropriate numbering to Figure 9 and Paragraph 39 have been provided. It is believed that the description in paragraph 39 (original Paragraph 38) supports the drawing change and does not constitute new matter. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections. Claim 25 has been canceled thus obviating the claim objection.

Allowable subject matter. Claims 4-11, 15-22, 26-29 were objected to but deemed allowable if placed in independent form. Claims 10 and 21 have therefore been rewritten in independent form. Claim 10 and Claim 21 are thus believed to be allowable.

Claim Rejections. Claims 1-3, 12-14 and 23-25 were rejected in view of Ohnstead US Patent 3, 315,989. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to more clearly distinguish the invention from the cited prior art. Claim 23 remains unchanged and is believed patentable in view of the following comments. The remaining claims depend from amended Claim 1, amended Claim 12, or Claim 23. Specifically Claims 3-8 depend from amended Claim 1. Claims 14-20 depend from amended Claim 12 and Claims 24 and 26-29 depend from independent Claim 23.

Briefly the invention relates to a method and device for reinforcing cylindrical pipe wherein a radial projection extends or may extend from the cylindrical surface of the pipe. Prestressed reinforcements wound about the cylindrical pipe are deflected to bypass the radial projection. The reinforcements are located in a common layer on a first side of the pipe generally opposite the radial projection and extend or connect to reinforcements on a second side of the pipe from which the radial projection projects. When positioned on the second side of the pipe, the prestressed reinforcements are deflected to bypass the radial projection by means of a plate which deflects the reinforcements around the radial projection and also provides channels for guiding the reinforcements into multiple layers. The claims thus require a plate which provides channels that enable multiple layering of the deflected reinforcements in the channels.

In the rejection, the Examiner referenced Figure 9 of the Ohnstead reference. The Ohnstead reference depicts reinforcements such as 13A and 13B which are fitted against a steel shell 12 and positioned on the side of a radial projection from the pipe. Also provided are plate members 25 which include channels. The channels provided by the plate members 25, however, do not provide for deflection of the radial reinforcements. Rather as depicted in the drawings, the plate members 25 merely guide the reinforcements around the pipe 12. Further, there is no layering of the reinforcements in the channels defined in the plate. That is the plates 25 in Figures 8 and 9 clearly do not provide for a layering of the reinforcements by positioning in a channel with one reinforcement over the other as taught in the present application and set forth in the amended Claims 1 and 12 and Claim 23. There is no layering as claimed.

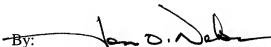
Referring to Figures 5 and 8 of the Ohnstead patent, it is noted that there are guide members 27. These guide members, however, do not provide for layering of the reinforcements by virtue interaction with a plate or plates having channels. Guide members 27 merely provide a channel for a single reinforcement and do not enable the claimed layering.

In sum, the plates or constructions 25 and 27 of Ohnstead do not function to provide channels which (1) deflect the reinforcements and (2) enable layering of the reinforcements therein as a result of interaction with the claimed plates. For these reasons it is believed that the Claims 1, 12 and 23 are differentiated from the prior art. Reconsideration thereof and passage to allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: October 3, 2007

By: 

Jon O. Nelson
Counsel for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,566